

NEW DESCRIPTIONS

A NEW SPECIES OF *AMBLYANTHUS* A. DC., FAMILY MYRSINACEAE, FROM ARUNACHAL PRADESH, INDIA¹

(With one text figure)

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A new species of *Amblyanthus* from Arunachal Pradesh is described. The new species is closely allied to *A. multiflorus* Mez.

While studying herbarium specimens in connection with the State Flora of Arunachal Pradesh, the authors came across some interesting specimens collected from the Upper Subansiri district (S.K. Das). A critical study of the specimens and scrutiny of the literature revealed it to be a new species of the genus *Amblyanthus* A. DC. The same is described here with illustrations. A diagnostic key to the Indian species of the genus is also provided.

Amblyanthus obovatus Giri, Das et Chowdhery sp. nov. *A. multiflora* Mez, affinis sed distinguenda foliis obovatis vel obovato-oblongis, chartaceis, basi manifeste inaequalibus, apice acutis, petiolis longioribus (15-32 mm), inflorescentiis confertis paniculatim umbellatis, sepalis 1/3 connatis ad marginem fimbriatis, petalis 1/3 connatis ad marginem integris.

Holotypus lectus S.K. Das subnumero 3997A ad locum 10 km e Sippi c. 250 m, die 25.iv.1988, district Superior Subansiri (Arunachal Pradesh) India et positus in CAL; Isotypi 3997B et 3997C positus in ARUN.

Erect shrubs, 5-6 m tall, branches herbaceous, terete or slightly compressed when young, striate, gland-dotted younger parts ferruginously furfuraceous, older parts glabrous, bark thick, reddish. Leaves alternate, usually obovate, sometimes obovate-oblong, (22-)25-30 (-32) x (8-)9-11(-12.5) cm; base distinctly

unequal, one side always 2-6 mm above the other, subrotund to subtruncate; apex acute; margin crenulate to undulate-crenate, recurved, with submarginal glands below crenatures, glands oblong or ellipsoid, 1-2 mm long, brownish; midrib depressed above, much raised beneath, lateral nerves opposite to alternate, 25-30(-35) on either side, nervules oblique, lateral nerves usually forked or branched near margin, ending in submarginal glands; lamina chartaceous, on drying turn blackish above, dark brown beneath, both surfaces glabrous, profusely dotted with brownish glands beneath, glands minute or conspicuous, round, oval or elliptic; petioles strong, deeply channelled, 1.5-3.5 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescence axillary, condensed, paniculately umbellate; peduncles 5-7 cm long, slightly compressed, ferruginously furfuraceous; bracts oblong, 5-8 x 2.5-3.5 mm, boat-shaped, apex acute, ferruginously furfuraceous and gland-dotted outside, glabrous inside. Flowers many, flower buds nearly globose, 2-3 mm diam; pedicels stout, angular, 0.5-1.5 mm long, ferruginously furfuraceous, brownish gland-dotted; bracteoles 2, adpressed at base of calyx, subulate. Calyx 1/3 connate at base, lobes 5, ovate to suborbicular, c. 1 x 1 mm, apex acute or obtuse, margin fringed, ferruginously furfuraceous, scattered gland-dotted outside, glabrous inside. Corolla pinkish, 1/3 connate at base, lobes 5, ovate to suborbicular, 1-1.5 x 1-1.5 mm, deeply concave, margin hyaline, entire, both surfaces glabrous, scattered gland-dotted, glands brownish. Stamens 5, included, filaments very

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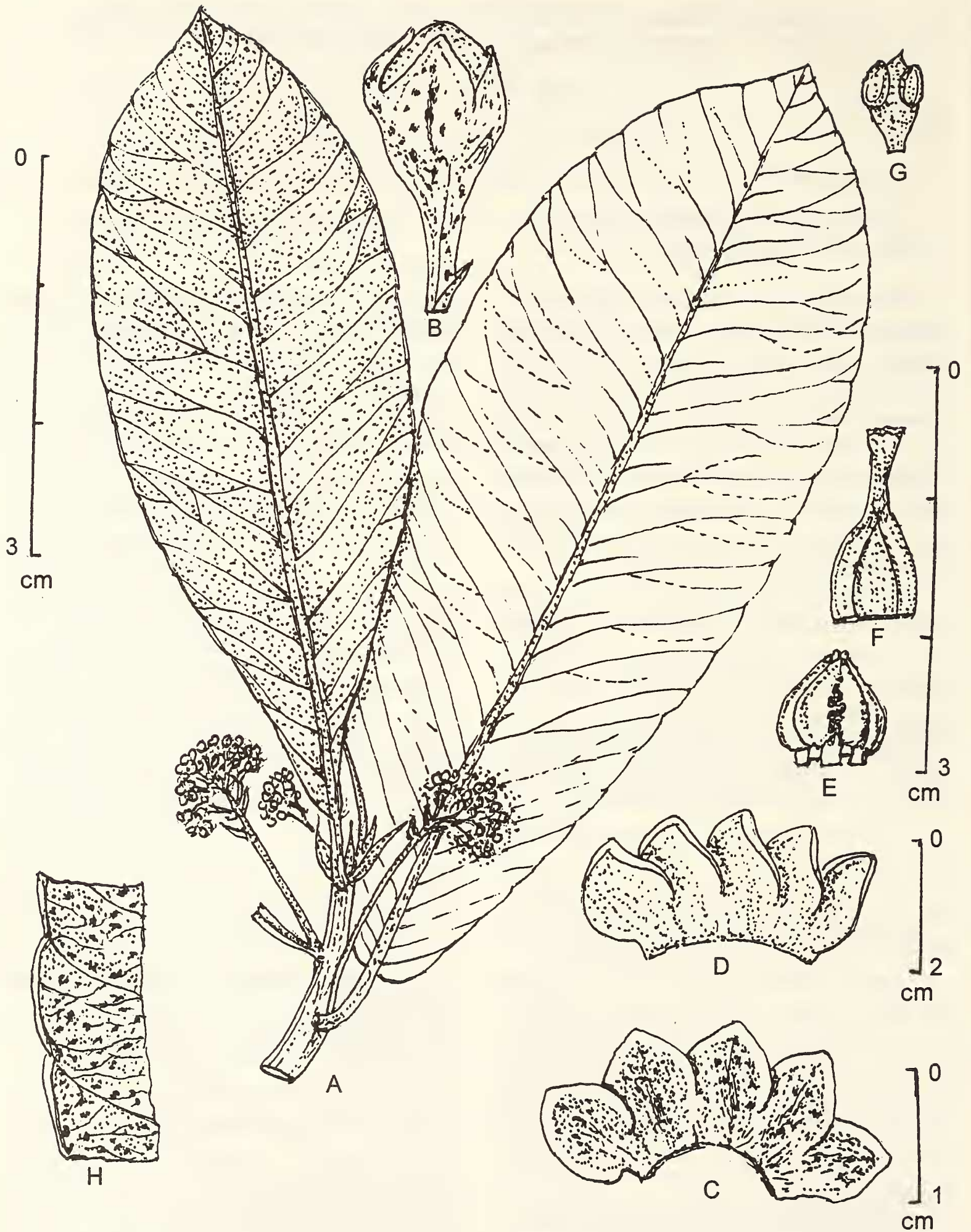


Fig. 1: *Amblyanthus obovatus* sp. nov., A. Habit; B. Flower bud; C. Calyx (split open); D. Corolla (split open); E. Stamens; F. Gynaecium; G. Ovules; H. Part of leaf margin

short, free, attached at very base of corolla; anthers connate along whole length of margin, broadly ovate, 0.75 x 0.5 mm, basifixed, dorsally punctate along connective. Ovary oval to ellipsoid, 0.5-0.75 mm long, glabrous, ovules 3-4, uniseriate; style columnar, c. 0.5 mm long, slightly dilated towards apex; stigma lobed. Fruit not seen.

Type: Arunachal Pradesh, Upper Subansiri district, 10 km away from Sippi, c. 250 m, 25.iv.1988, S.K. Das 3997A (Holotype CAL); 3997B & 3997C (Isotypes ARUN).

Fl.: April-May.

Habitat: In primary forests on thick humus along riverbank.

Note: *Amblyanthus obovatus* sp. nov. is allied to *A. multiflorus* Mez, but can be distinguished by obovate or obovate-oblong, chartaceous leaves with prominently unequal base and acute apex, longer petioles (15-32 mm long) inflorescence condensed, paniculately umbellate; sepals 1/3 connate with entire margin. Species of *Amblyanthus* A.DC. may be superficially confused with those of *Amblyanthopsis* Mez, mainly by habit and leaves. But the genus *Amblyanthopsis* Mez is

characterised by free stamens, whereas the stamens of *Amblyanthus* A.DC. are connate, at least the anthers.

A diagnostic key to the Indian species of *Amblyanthus* A.DC. is given below.

KEY TO THE INDIAN SPECIES
OF *AMBLYANTHUS* A.DC.

1. Inflorescence terminal 2
- Inflorescence axillary 3
2. Leaves lanceolate, sepals connate up to middle *A. glandulosus*
- Leaves ovate-oblong, sepals connate up to 1/3 at base *A. praetervisus*
3. Leaves lanceolate, base equal, acute; sepals and petals 3/4 connate *A. multiflorus*
- Leaves obovate or obovate-oblong, base distinctly unequal subrounded to subtruncate; sepals and petals 1/3 connate *A. obovatus*

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